**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1.    (Currently Amended) A system for input of Chinese characters into a machine, comprising:

(A)    means for input of information, said means for input further comprising means for selecting information from the group consisting of a stroke, <u>wherein strokes are arranged in stroke categories,</u> a component and a character;

(B)    means for storage of data related to the properties of Chinese characters and compounds, wherein said means for storage comprises data related to component parts of a Chinese character<u>;</u>, ~~said data selected from the group consisting of (1) the iden-~~ ~~tification and order of strokes used to draw said character, said strokes being in accor-~~ ~~dance with a selected classification scheme, (2) the frequency of occurrence of said char-~~ ~~acter as the first character of a word with respect to an operator's language, (3) the ortho-~~ ~~graphic components of said character in drawing order, and (4) indicators of said charac-~~ ~~ter's membership within various subsets of Chinese characters;~~

(C)    means for processing said input information, being based upon an order of strokes used to draw said character<u>,</u> or <u>used to draw sub</u>components of a character<u>.</u>~~;~~

(D)    <u>means</u> for retrieving Chinese characters and compounds based upon stroke sequence, <u>and subcomponent selection,</u> said processing means including a plurality of Chinese character encoding processes based on said stored data; and

(E)    means for display providing an indication of correspondence between ele- ments of said means for input and said display wherein further ~~character~~ <u>candidate</u> selec- tion information is suggested in response t~~o said input~~ <u>user selections and said candidate</u> <u>selection information includes components that incorporate a user selected subcomponent</u> <u>and eliminates other candidates that do not include a user selected subcomponent.</u>

2.    (Original)  The system according to claim 1, wherein said means for input is se- lected from the group consisting of a keyboard and a touchscreen.

3.    (Original) The system according to claim 2, wherein said means for input is said touch screen which is incorporated with said display means, and said touch screen comprises a virtual keyboard comprising a representation of keys, each said key representation assigned to selection of a stroke, a component or a character, and said touch screen further comprising a special function key selected from the group consisting of a more key and a wild card key.

4.    (Original) The system according to claim 2, wherein said means for input is said keyboard, said keyboard comprising keys, each said keys assigned to selection of a stroke, a component or a character, and said keyboard further comprising a special function key selected from the group consisting of a more key and a wild card key.

5.    Cancelled

6.    (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said means for storage comprises data related to component parts of a Chinese word, said data selected from the group consisting of (1) the frequency of occurrence of said word with respect to a user's language, and (2) indicators of said word's membership within the various subsets of all Chinese words.

7.    (Original)  The system according to claim 1, wherein said component is orthographic.

8.    (Original)  The system according to claim 7, wherein said component is selected from the group consisting of a component comprised of fundamental strokes and a component comprised of a plurality of subcomponents.

9.    (Previously Presented)  The system according to claim 1, wherein an order for the display of component candidates is based on the cumulative frequencies of all possible Chinese characters and an order for the display of the next drawn candidate is based on the previous selection.

10.    (Original)  The system according to claim 9, wherein the character frequencies are altered as a result of the actual frequency of use of the characters by a specific operator.

11.    (Currently Amended)  A method for inputting Chinese characters into a machine, comprising the steps of:

(A)    inputting a selection for an initial stroke of a Chinese character, wherein the initial stroke is traditionally the first stroke drawn when drawing the Chinese character by hand, and suggesting candidates based upon (1) the identification and order of strokes used to draw said character, said strokes being in accordance with a selected classification scheme, (2) the frequency of occurrence of said character as the first character of a word with respect to an operator's language, (3) the orthographic components of said character in drawing order, and (4) indicators of said character's membership within various subsets of Chinese characters  and displaying said candidates in response to said initial stroke input, wherein said candidates include at least one character or at least one subcomponent, being a portion of a character said candidates being limited based upon said user's prior selections of a subcomponent;

(B)    selecting a character or, if a desired character is not displayed, selecting a further stroke, wherein the further stroke is traditionally the next stroke drawn when drawing the Chinese character by hand, or a displayed subcomponent, being a next drawn portion of a character; and

(C)    selecting a word associated character or a non-word associated character, such that Chinese text is constructed with said selections.

12.     (Original)  The method according to claim 11, wherein selection of said nonword associated character automatically appends a word separator.

13.     (Previously Presented)  The method according to claim 11, wherein said step of inputting further comprising selecting information from the group consisting of a stroke, a component and a character.

14 – 16 Cancelled.

17.     (Previously Presented)  The method according to claim 13, further comprising providing a component that is orthographic.

18.     (Previously Presented)  The method according to claim 13, wherein said component is selected from the group consisting of a component comprised of fundamental strokes and a component comprised of a plurality of subcomponents.

19.     (Original)  The method according to claim 13, wherein the order for the display of component candidates is based on the cumulative frequencies of all possible Chinese characters and the order for the display of the next drawn candidate is based on the previous selection.

20.     (Original)  The method according to claim 19, wherein the character frequencies are altered as a result of the actual frequency of use of the characters by a specific operator.

21.     Cancelled

22.     (Currently Amended)  A computer-readable storage medium having a program

recorded thereon for input of Chinese characters into a computer comprising:

(A)     means for input of stroke, a component and a character;

(B)     means connected to the input means for storage of data including:

(i)     a character table that includes, for each of a plurality of characters,

data related to the strokes and the sequence of strokes used to write the character and data

related to components forming the character; and

(ii)     a component table that includes, for each of a plurality of compo-

nents, data related to the strokes and the sequence of strokes used to write the component;

and

(C)     means for processing connected to the input means and the storage means,

including:

(i)     means for expanding an input through the input means into strokes

with reference to the component table;

(ii)     means for identifying character candidates having a stroke se-

quence identical to the sequence of the expanded strokes from the character table;

(iii)     means for identifying components-, being portions of characters,

and for identifying subcomponents, being portions of components, having a stroke se-

quence identical to the sequence of the expanded strokes from the component table; and

(iv)     means for presenting the identified character candidates and com-

ponent candidates for selection on means for display connected to said process means and

the storage means wherein candidates are proposed based upon user selections and said

candidates include components that incorporate a user selected subcomponent and other

candidates that do not include a user selected subcomponent are eliminated.

23.     (Currently Amended)  The computer-readable storage medium according to claim

22, wherein character candidates and said component candidates are presented in a first

area on said display means, and said program further comprises:

means for presenting a stroke input through the input means in a second area on

said display means;

6   means for replacing the strokes being presented in the second area by a compo-

7 nent input through the input means; and

8   means for clearing the contents of the second area, and presenting a character in-

9 put through the input means in a third area on said display means.

1 24.  Cancelled

1 25.  (New)  A computer readable medium for input into a machine having a keyboard

2 and a display screen a desired Chinese text, the computer readable medium having pro-

3 gram instructions for performing the steps comprising:

4   (A) receiving operator input from an associated device for allowing the opera-

5 tor to select one or more of a stroke, a component and a character;

6   (B) in response to a operator input of a stroke, retrieving from one or more as-

7 sociated data structures, candidates that begin with the stroke entered by the operator

8 based upon the frequency of occurrence of said candidate in the operator's language or

9 prior usage, which candidates include one or more of the following:

10    (i) character candidates including word associated characters and non-

11 word associated characters; and

12    (ii) intermediate structures including a complex component, and a sim-

13   ple subcomponent, wherein said intermediate structures include subcomponents

14   other than radicals;

15   (C) in response to a operator input of a component selection, determining

16 whether a complex component has been selected, and if a complex component has been

17 selected, removing strokes from an associated buffer, and retrieving from one or more

18 associated data structures components that may include the complex component selected

19 as leading sub-component, and if a simple component is selected, retrieving characters

20 that begin with that component;

21   (D) in response to a character selection, determining whether a word associ-

22 ated character is selected and if so, retrieving from one or more associated data structures,

23 words beginning with the word associated character, and if a non-word associated charac-

24     ter is selected, appending a word separator to an associated character buffer, followed by

25     the selected non-word associated character; and

26         (E)     updating the display with one or more retrieved candidates, and allowing

27     the user to make further selections until the desired text is provided.